

County Snapshot

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Lassen County, located on the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, is bordered by Modoc County to the north, Plumas County on the south and Shasta County on the west.

The county's population is projected to reach 49,300 by 2020, an increase of approximately 37 percent over the current population. This would be over 13,000 new residents.

The annual average civilian labor force for Lassen County was 11,200 with an unemployment rate of 7.0 percent. The state's annual average unemployment rate was 5.2 percent.

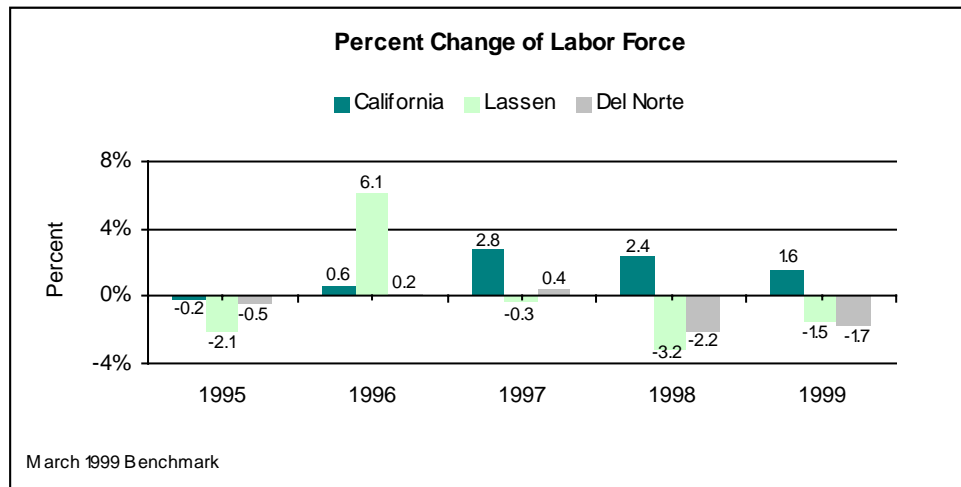
The government industry sector was significant in 1999, accounting for over half the employment in the county. The retail trade industry accounted for almost 15 percent and services for 13 percent of the employment.

The services industry sector is the fastest growing industry in the county with a 1997-2004 projected growth of over 16 percent. The retail trade industry sector is expected to gain over 15 percent and government is expected to increase by about 3 percent.

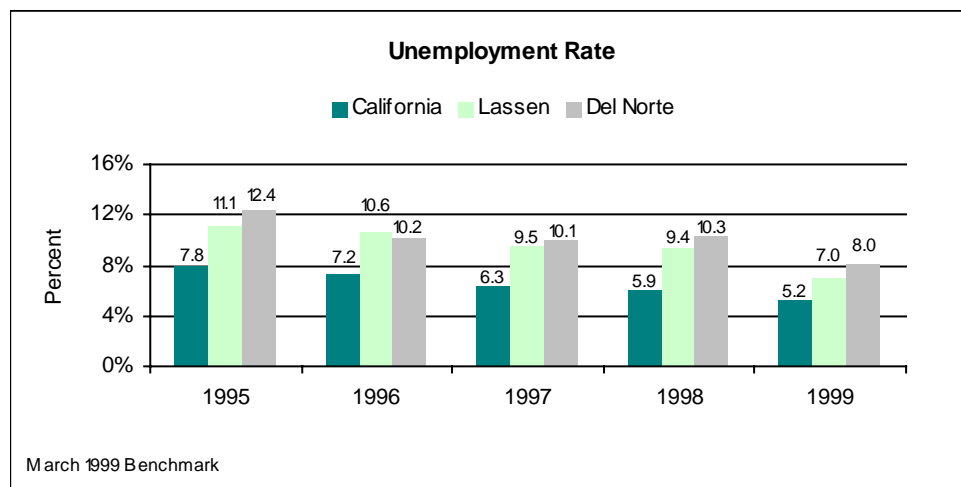
Despite fluctuations in the civilian labor force, recent economic conditions in Lassen County have supported job growth in the nonfarm wage and salary employment and steadily declining unemployment rates. This trend is expected to continue as moderate growth is projected in most the major industry sectors during the forecast period, 1997-2004.

LABOR FORCE

Lassen County's annual average civilian labor force peaked in 1996 due to gains in the government sector primarily in state government. Despite subsequent declines from 1997 to 1999, the county experienced cumulative growth of almost 1 percent over this period. The declines in the civilian labor force have slowed from 3.2 percent in 1998 to 1.5 percent in 1999.

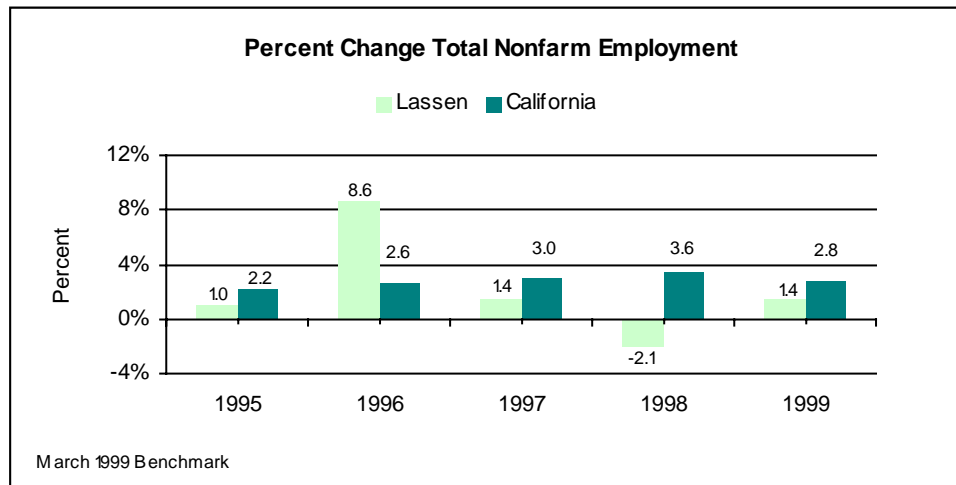


Since 1995, annual average unemployment rates have declined in Lassen County as well as the state. Lassen County's annual average unemployment rate dropped 4.1 percentage points from 11.1 percent in 1995 to 7.0 percent in 1999. Del Norte County's annual average unemployment rate also declined during this period.

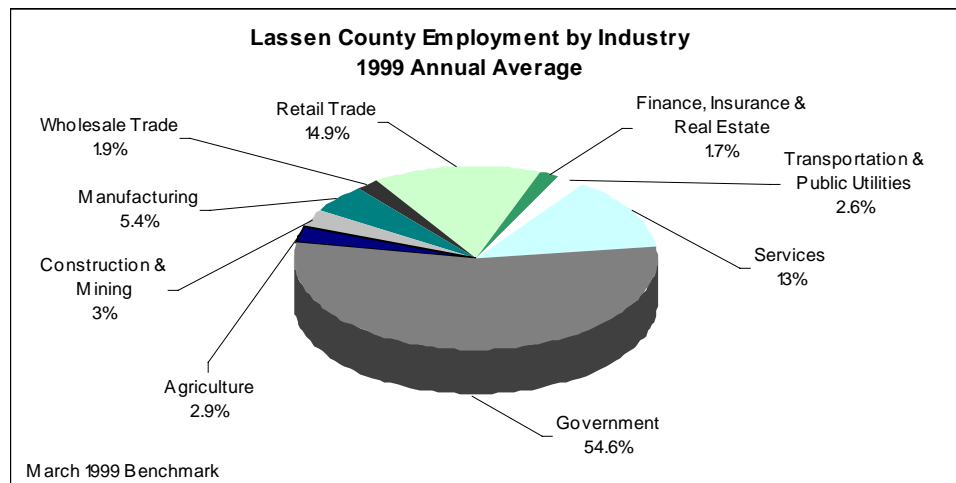


INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

Lassen County has recorded growth in the annual average nonfarm employment since 1995 with the exception of a modest decline in 1998. The annual average nonfarm employment increased by 1.4 percent in 1999, fueled in part by gains in the local government and construction industries.



Government is a significant economic factor in Lassen County providing over half the employment in 1999. Retail trade and services accounted for another 28 percent. During the forecast period 1997-2004, the services, retail trade and government industries will fuel the projected job growth in Lassen County.



OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Demographic trends, shifts in demands for products or services, technological innovations and the way business is conducted are some of the variables that drive employment in an occupation up or down. Also, occupations which have large employment and have high turnover rates generally provide the most job openings. Lassen County is projected to have more employment opportunities in the high turnover occupations. Occupational projections for Lassen County are combined with Del Norte, Modoc, Plumas, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity counties and published as the Northern Rural Training and Employment Consortium (NORTEC) projections.

Associated Occupations	SERVICES 1997 – 2004 Projected Growth 16.9%
	Registered Nurses – 60 job openings. Provide direct bedside care and assist physicians with examinations, chart the conditions of patients, give medication, and administer treatment as ordered by the doctor. May supervise auxiliary nursing personnel. Associate Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$19.33
	Amusement, Recreation Attendants – 60 job openings. Perform any of a variety of attending duties at amusement or recreation facility. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.72
	General Managers, Top Executives – 50 job openings. Include both top and mid-level managers whose duties and responsibilities are too diverse and general in nature to be classified in any functional or line area of management and administration. Work Experience, plus a Bachelor's or higher. Median Hourly Wage - \$20.81
	Computer Support Specialist – 50 job openings. Provide technical assistance and training to computer system users. They investigate and resolve computer software and hardware problems for users. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$17.65
	First-Line Supervisor / Manager, Clerical ADM SUP – 50 job openings. Directly supervise and coordinate activities of clerical and administrative support workers. Managers / Supervisors are generally found in smaller establishments where they perform both supervisory and management functions. Work Experience. Median Hourly Wage - \$12.39
Associated Occupations	RETAIL TRADE 1997 – 2004 Projected Growth 15.8%
	Cashiers – 280 job openings. Handle cash and credit payments, make change, give receipts, account for all payments, and perform related clerical duties. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.87
	Salespersons, Retail – 240 job openings. Get the customer interested by describing the merchandise and showing how it is used. May also order merchandise, stock shelves, mark price tags, take inventory and prepare displays. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.59
	Food Preparation Workers – 70 job openings. Keep kitchen work areas clean and orderly, keep restaurant equipment and utensils clean, move supplies and wash dishes, trays, pots and pans used in cooking and serving. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$5.91
	Combined Food Preparation And Service Workers – 70 job openings. Do both food preparation and food service. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$5.67
	First-Line Supervisor / Manager Sales – 60 job openings. Directly supervise and coordinate activities of marketing, sales, and related workers. May perform management functions, such as budgeting, accounting, marketing, and personnel work. Work Experience. Median Hourly Wage - \$12.90
Associated Occupations	GOVERNMENT 1997 – 2004 Projected Growth 3.2%
	Corrections Officers And Jailers – 130 job openings. Guard inmates in penal or rehabilitative institutions in accordance with established regulations and procedures. May guard prisoners in transit. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$19.24
	Police Patrol Officers – 40 job openings. Maintain order, enforce laws and ordinances, protect life and property in an assigned patrol district or beat. Patrol on foot or in a vehicle; investigate accidents; apprehend, arrest and process prisoners; and give evidence in court. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$26.29
	Recreation Workers – 20 job openings. Conduct recreation activities with groups in public, private, or volunteer agencies or recreation facilities. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.96
	Emergency Medical Technicians – 20 job openings. Administer first aid treatment and transport sick or injured persons to medical facility, working as a member of an emergency medical team. Post-secondary vocational education. Median Hourly Wage - \$9.77
	Maintenance Repairers, General Utility – 20 job openings. Perform work involving two or more maintenance skills to keep the machines, mechanical equipment, and/or structure of an establishment in repair. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$9.80

This **County Snapshot** is a product of:
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Labor Market Information Division
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